

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROCESS

THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT IT'S NOT A PART OF THE CONSTITUTION... HOW CAN WE CHANGE THAT?

Process:

In order to amend the U.S. Constitution, we must have the consent of:

- ★ **2/3** of the members (290 in the house and 67 in the Senate) – once the ERA passes in Congress, it then goes to the States who must ratify the Constitutional Amendment;
- ★ **3/4** of the States – 38 states must ratify the ERA for it to become a part of the Constitution;
- ★ By 1982, 35 states had ratified the ERA. Indiana was the 35th State to ratify the ERA (in 1977);
- ★ Five rescinded their ratification: Tennessee, Kentucky, Idaho, South Dakota, Nebraska; however, ratification of the 14th amendment set a legal precedent stating that states may not rescind ratification.
- ★ The 15 states that never ratified the ERA are: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah, and Virginia.

History:

- ★ Originally introduced in 1923, the ERA passed Congress in 1972. Congress originally gave the states 7 years to ratify. Congress subsequently extended the deadline by an additional 3 years, for a total of 10 years. However, by 1982, the amendment had fallen 3 states short of the 38 states necessary for ratification.
- ★ Women's rights advocate Alice Paul wrote the bill in 1923. It was introduced by Senator Curtis and Representative Anthony, both Republicans. Rep. Anthony was the nephew of suffragist Susan B. Anthony.